

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 DRC-01 /166 W
----- 034270

R 171850Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7492

INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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EO 11652: DECLASSIFY AFTER DEC 31, 1974

TAGS: EAID EGEN EFIN BB

SUBJ: SPECULATION ON DEMAS REAPPEARS

1. NEWS ARTICLE IN TODAY'S ADVOCATE-NEWS DATED LINED ST LUCIA STATES THAT CARICOM HEADS OF GOVT ARE NOW GRAPPLING WITH "SURPRISE ISSUE" OF RETAINING WILLIAM DEMAS AS CARICOM SECRETARY GENERAL. ARTICLE REVIVES SPECULATION ABOUT DEMAS' (AND CDB) FUTURE WHICH HAD BEEN AT LEAST TEMPORARILY LAID TO REST BY DEMAS' RECENT VISIT HERE AND HIS ASSUMPTION OF LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES ON JULY 8, 1974.

2. NEWS ARTICLE SEEMS TO HAVE VERY LITTLE SUBSTANCE TO IT AND MAY BE BASED ON REPORTER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SOME INDIVIDUAL ATTENDEES. ARTICLE NOTES DEMAS' MONUMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
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REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND SPECULATES THAT DEMAS' FUTURE WITH

CARICOM COULD COME UP FOR "SERIOUS AND PAINSTAKING REVIEW BY HEADS OF GOVT WHO HAVE COME TO REGARD MR DEMAS TO BE AS INDISPENSIBLE AS ANY HUMAN BEING CAN BE." ARTICLE MENTIONS SPECIAL RAPPORT BUILT UP OVER YEARS BY DEMAS WITH HEADS OF STATE AND DEMAS' ABILITIES TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS OF TRUST WITH AREA'S POLITICAL LEADERS. ARTICLE POINTS TO DEMAS' PRIOR RELUCTANCE TO SPECIFY DATE ON WHICH HE WOULD MOVE TO CDB AND ALLEGES THAT DEMAS TOLD PRESS BRIEFING JULY 14 THAT ST LUCIA MEETING WOULD "APPARENTLY" BE LAST SUCH CONFAB HE WOULD BE ATTENDING.

3. SENIOR CDB SOURCES SAY THEY ARE TRYING TO CLARIFY SITUATION NOW THROUGH BANK'S REP AT CONFERENCE AND THAT THEY EXPECT SOME WORD "VERY SHORTLY." BANK SOURCES ADMITTED THAT FURTHER SPECULATION OF THIS TYPE COULD, IF NOT CLARIFIED SOON, DAMAGE STAFF MORALE AND EXTERNAL CONFIDENCE IN BANK ITSELF.

4. COMMENT: ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION FACT THAT DEMAS IS NOW LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE AS CDB PRESIDENT. PRESUMABLY HE IS SUBJECT TO ALL REQUIREMENTS OF BANK'S CHARTER, INCLUDING NEED TO GIVE THREE MONTHS' NOTICE BEFORE DEPARTING. ARTICLE OF THIS TYPE IS CLEARLY HARMFUL BUT SUCH SPECULATION WILL PROBABLY NOT STOP UNTIL MR DEMAS BECOMES MORE DEFINITE ABOUT WHEN HE WILL GO TO CDB.
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